2/1/2025

Protecting the Incidence

Ah, the classic line "the names have been changed to protect the innocent" – it's the narrative equivalent of a superhero's disguise! It's a phrase that's been echoed through the halls of storytelling, from gritty noir detective tales to the blooper reels of reality TV. It's the storyteller's wink to the audience, a nudge under the table that says, "Hey, this could've happened to anyone, but don't worry, we've disguised the identities faster than Clark Kent in a phone booth." It's a bit like those sunglasses and fake mustaches in spy kits – you know it's still your Uncle Bob, but now he's "Bobert the Mysterious" from... let's say, Albuquerque. This phrase has been a trusty sidekick to writers, allowing them to dance the delicate ballet of truth and fiction without stepping on too many toes. It's the narrative duct tape – it doesn't fix the legal issues, but it sure makes it look like everything's under control. And while its legal effectiveness is as clear as mud, it's the thought that counts, right? It's the storyteller's version of "loose lips sink ships," except the only thing sinking here is the direct link to real people who might not appreciate their laundry – dirty or clean – aired out for the public's entertainment. So, next time you hear that phrase, tip your hat to the age-old tradition of keeping things incognito, where every character is just a costume change away from an alias, and every plot twist is a step in the shadowy dance of

anonymity. Just remember, behind every "Sylvia Wiss" is a George Baker with a story to tell – and a privacy to protect.